

Appln No. 09/825,708

Amdt date February 24, 2005

Reply to Office action of November 30, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above identified patent application has been amended and reconsideration and reexamination are hereby requested.

Claims 1 - 22 are now in the application.

The Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as it exceeded 150 words. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been reduced to 144 words. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that the Abstract of the Disclosure now has proper format.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 16 - 19 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent no. 6,697,325 to Cain (Cain I).

The Applicant's Claim 16 calls for "a plurality of stations on a communications network, each of the plurality of stations being capable of transmitting and receiving frames over the communications network." (emphasis added). Cain I does not discuss stations on a communication network in the context of frames. In fact, nowhere in the entire specification of Cain I does the term "frame" even appear. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 16 is not anticipated by Cain I under 35 U.S.C. §102(a).

Claims 17 - 19 are dependent on Claim 16. As such, these claims are believed allowable based upon Claim 16.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cain I in view of U.S. Patent no. 5,461,608 to Yoshiyama. The Examiner has furthermore rejected Claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cain I in view of U.S. Patent no. 6,606,325 to Cain (Cain II).

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The Applicant's Claim 20 calls for a "control frame [being] transmitted by a station." (emphasis added). Claims 21 - 22 similarly call for "control frames" or a "control frame," respectively. Claims 20 - 22 are all dependent on Claim 16, calling for "announcements sent in control frames."

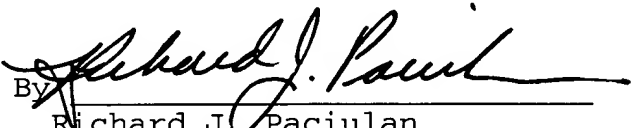
Neither Cain I nor Cain II nor Yoshiyama discuss control frames. In fact, none of the specifications even include the term "frame."

Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claims 20 and 22 are not unpatentable over Cain I in view of Yoshiyama under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and that Claim 21 is not unpatentable over Cain I in view of Cain II under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks it is submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims have been overcome. Reconsideration and reexamination of the above Application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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